



Where everyone matters and every day counts

Houghton Regis Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2019

**Headteacher: Mrs B Waite
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Parmar
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Mew**

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to the second half of Spring Term. The children have been working extremely hard and as always, learning has been fun and exciting in all year groups.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their trips this term, giving them a chance to experience the wider context of the curriculum: Year 5 visited the Royal Air Force Museum and Years 1 & 2 visited the Roald Dahl Museum.

We were very pleased to have a visit from Jack Trelawny, a children's author. He read extracts from some of his books and shared his inspirations for writing. The children also had the opportunity to win book prizes by answering his questions.

Thank you to all parents who attended our English Curriculum Sessions before half-term. We have had very positive responses from parents, which can be read on our website. Our next parent session will be linked to the Science Curriculum and will be held on Tuesday 12th March at 9-10am and 2-3pm. Please see your child's Class Teacher to sign up for one of these sessions.

It is with great sadness that I must inform parents that after some fifteen years at the school, Mrs Thompson, one of our very experienced Teaching Assistants in Key Stage 1, has decided to move on to pursue new adventures. Mrs. Thompson has been a valued member of staff and we were all sorry to see her leave today. I am sure many of you will wish to join in with the staff and children in wishing her and her husband every success for their future.

We would like to welcome Mrs Fennell, who has joined our fantastic team at Houghton Regis Primary School.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.


Mrs B Waite & Mrs R Parmar

VALUE OF THE MONTH:

Trust

Trust is to believe that someone is good and honest, or that something is safe and reliable.



Kidz  Zone
Before and After
School Club
Information

If you would like further information, please visit our website or book on www.kidzzoneclub.com.

PTA Request

If you have any unwanted Christmas presents, such as toiletry sets, chocolate or gifts, please donate them to the PTA via the school office. All donations will be gratefully received for future fundraising. Thank you.

Class Attendance Winners for February EYFS/KS1: **Green Class** with 97.6%

KS2: **Emerald Class** with
98.5%

Whole School
Attendance:
95.7%

Housepoint Winners

EYFS/KS1: **Eagles** with
118 points

KS2: **Hawks** with 150
points

Overall Winning House:
Hawks with 220 points

Our Learning

EARLY YEARS—SILVER AND GOLD CLASSES

Silver Class have been learning about Long Long Ago. In the first week we found out about dinosaurs and our story for the week was Harry and the Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. We even hatched our own dinosaur eggs! Some of the dinosaurs had been trapped in ice and we freed them using our hammers. We tried our hands at ice painting and designed our own dinosaur using different sizes of body parts. We had a cave in our role play area and dressed up in a tiger print material, like cave people. We even tried to do some cave paintings of our own, and used straws to create skeletons of the dinosaurs. Lastly we used the different sized play dinosaurs with the scales to weigh them to see which were heaviest and lightest and which ones balanced. In the second week, we were learning about knights, castles and dragons. Our role play area was a castle and we had dressing up outfits for knights and princesses. We had wooden bowls and spoons to eat from and goblets to drink from like they did in the olden days. Our book for the week was Cinder the Bubble Blowing Dragon. We had a bubble machine and blew bubbles like the dragon in our story and tried some bubble painting. We made wands and crowns for our princes and princesses. We are continuing to enjoy our phonics. The children are learning the sounds the letters make, the names of the letters and they are beginning to put the sounds together to read words. The afternoon children are learning about rhyme and rhythm.



Gold Class has enjoyed a medical themed week. We had fun in our doctor's surgery taking temperatures and bandaging our friends. We also thought about how to keep healthy and look after ourselves. We practised brushing on a giant set of teeth and also carried out an experiment which showed us how important it is not to drink too many sugary drinks. Last week we began looking at dinosaurs. We found out some facts, learned how to say the very tricky names and then wrote some descriptions of the dinosaurs. We had lots of messy fun making fossils using salt dough and we made our own dinosaurs using Plaster of Paris. We painted them and they are now proudly on display. We were very excited when we went for a walk in the forest school area and found some huge eggs. We had a good think about what they were and where they had come from. We brought them back to the classroom very carefully and wrote about what might be inside. Another highlight from last week was enjoying learning about fractions during our Maths Week. We cut pizzas, fruit and toast into halves and then quarters. We talked about sharing fairly and making sure that we had equal pieces. We have had lots of fun already this week listening to dragon stories and making maps. There have been lots of princes, princesses and knights in our castle in the classroom, but luckily no dragons! We even found a time machine in the classroom to inspire our writing.



KEY STAGE 1 —ORANGE, GREEN & PURPLE CLASSES

In Year 1, we started the month with our topic of 'China and Dragons'. We thoroughly enjoyed learning different facts about China; we especially enjoyed sampling a range of Chinese food! In mMaths, we have been learning about fractions. We explored finding halves and quarters of shapes and numbers. We also practised cutting (and eating) foods in these fractions. In English, we have been increasing our vocabulary by using adjectives to write dragon poems. In PE, we are developing our ball skills through catching and throwing. This week, Year 1 visited the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. We had a fantastic time. We have been reading several Roald Dahl books since January so it was amazing seeing features of the stories through a hands on experience. Lastly, Orange Class wished Mrs Thompson the best of luck today as she leaves HRPS to start a new career. She will be dearly missed. We have welcomed Mrs Fennell who started working with Orange Class after the half-term holiday.



During February, Year 2 completed lots of cross-curricular and practical learning. We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic about China. We have learned about how China is different to England. Before we started the topic, we asked lots of questions about what we wanted to learn. We have answered all of them and learned many new facts. We tried some Chinese food and made bar and tally charts to show which food choices we liked most and least, this linked Geography and Maths. We talked about Chinese stories and wrote our own dragon poems and stories. In Science, we have been finding out about animal classification. We found out that creatures from many different groups lay eggs. We followed that up by doing an investigation to make an egg float. It was very exciting! In Art, we made dragon masks and plates from the Willow Pattern story. Our Maths lessons have been focused on Fractions. We are now able to find fractions of shape and number. Last week, we had a fantastic week exploring fractions through lots of practical activities. We even made and played our own games, writing our own fraction questions and checking that they worked. This really secured our knowledge. We have had several sessions in Forest School and we are really enjoying all the different activities that we are having the opportunity to take part in. We also had a fantastic trip to the Roald Dahl Gallery. Please look at our Class Pages on the website tab 'Our Learning' to see lots of photos of our day.



Our Learning

LOWER KEY STAGE 2—BLUE, YELLOW & RED CLASSES

This month in Year 3, we have started our new book called, *The Ice Monster* by David Walliams. We have safely used the internet to research about his life and written our own biography's about him. We enjoyed learning lots of new facts about one of our favourite authors. We are looking forward to reading more of the book to find out what happens next! In Maths we have just finished Fractions Week. We took part in a range of activities using food and play dough to support our learning. We also created our own fractions game that we shared with other year groups. We are feeling confident with adding and subtraction fractions. In Science, we have started our new topic called States of Matter and so far we have identified the properties of a solid, liquid and a gas. In Geography, we have been using atlases to explore the UK, learning about the countries, seas and rivers that encompass it. We have also been lucky enough to start our cooking sessions! We have made shortbread, using a range of cooking equipment and understanding food and hygiene standards. We will be making pizzas in our next session. Last month, we explored the value of equality in and around our school and in our lessons. We discussed the artist, Michelangelo and how his art included a variety of people at the Sistine Chapel. We decide to paint in the same style to show Equality.



In English, we have started reading our new book, *The Ice Monster*, by David Walliams. We have explored who David Walliams is and researched details about his life. We then used this information to create biographies. We are now starting to look at descriptive writing in detail; creating in-depth descriptions and forming our own characters. In Maths, we have just finished Fractions Week, which we enjoyed very much. Through the week, we partook in various activities where we were able to explore fractions in a practical and theoretic sense. We also had the opportunity to play fraction games as well as help Year 3 children with their understanding of fractions. We are now moving onto Geometry, where we are investigating 2D shapes in detail, as well as identifying angles and exploring symmetry in shapes. In our Topic lessons, we are looking at The UK, where we'll have the opportunity to explore the main countries of the UK (as well as their major cities), famous landmarks around the UK, the key rivers, seas and mountains, and the development and expansion of London. In Science, we have started our new topic of States of Matter where we have been looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gasses, as well as investigating the process of heating and cooling. We are looking forward to applying our scientific thinking to this topic and undertaking experiments to expand our scientific knowledge.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2—AMBER, EMERALD & SAPPHIRE

In Year 5, in Maths, we have been looking at Fractions. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. Last week, we took part in fraction week where we were able to make our own Maths games- we thoroughly enjoyed it. In English, we have been reading 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans which is linked to our new Topic of Ancient Greece. So far this term, the children have written and performed their own play scripts, written the next part of the story following the author's style and have constructed a persuasive letter. This term, our topic in Science is Forces where the children have created their own parachutes to investigate the effects of air resistance. The children were challenged to change one aspect of their parachute like the material or the length of the string. They had a lot of fun testing the parachutes that they created.



In Year 6, in Maths, we have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and how they all interperse with each other. Alongside learning the fluency of these topics, we have also been solving problems and using reasoning skills to consolidate our knowledge. In the first week back to school, the children were engaged with designing and creating their own maths games. Once completed, they had the opportunity to play them with Year 5. This was a very enjoyable activity where the children benefitted by being able to share their new knowledge. In English, the book we have been reading, 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo, has given the children the chance to write in many different genres; for example: a diary entry, a character study and a balanced argument. Guided Reading this term is based around War Horse as well as SATs focussed; looking at different question types and how they are answered. In Science, the topic we are studying is Electricity; we have been learning how the circuits work and the various symbols used in circuit diagrams. We have looked at the ways in which a bulb and a motor reacts with more or less batteries. In topic, we have been learning about World War 1. We began our topic by looking at when, where and how the war began and identified major events to create a time line to show how the war progressed and when and why it ended. Our Art this term is linked to WW1. Children have created some fabulous charcoal drawings of the Blitz, Gas Masks, Poppies and 'Britain Needs You' posters.



Upcoming Events:

Please see the dates below for events taking place this term

Year 6 SATs Information Evening

Tuesday 5th March—5:00-6:00pm

Red Watch Fire Brigade Talk for Year 2

Wednesday 6th March

World Book Day—children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character

Thursday 7th March

Science Week

8th-17th March

Science Curriculum Sessions for Parents

Tuesday 12th March —9:00-10:00am & 2:00-3:00pm

Parent Internet Safety Session

Wednesday 13th March—5:30-6:30pm

Comic Relief—children can come to school in non-uniform wearing red

Friday 15th March

Parents' Evening

Tuesday 19th March 3:30pm-6:00pm

Voice in a Million Choir Trip to Wembley

Wednesday 20th March

Parents' Evening

Thursday 21st March 4:30-7:30pm

Years 3 & 4 Easter Production

Thursday 28th March 2:30pm and 6:00pm

Amber Class Assembly

Thursday 4th April 9:00am